



BROOKLYN TODAY

A Joint Publication of the City of Brooklyn and the Brooklyn School District

VOLUME FOUR, ISSUE FIFTEEN

FOURTH QUARTER 2003

FROM THE DESK OF MAYOR KEN PATTON



As the cool fall breeze blows the leaves from the trees onto our lawns, the Service Department workers will be out sweeping them up. Please watch for the signs which will be placed at the ends of your streets to indicate when the leaves will be picked up.

I am excited to let you know about the official City of Brooklyn web site! You can now log on to www.brooklynohio.gov for the latest updates, community events and city services. Paying city taxes and obtaining building permits will soon be accessible through the web site! We welcome your comments and suggestions.

At this time I do want to thank our summer employees that did such a wonderful job on all of our summer programs. Summer passed so quickly, however, we are very pleased about the success of our summer programs. Thank You!

Please mark your calendars for Brooklyn's Annual Tree Lighting on Friday, December 5th at 7:00 PM and the Old Fashioned Holiday Gathering on Sunday, December 7th from 4-6 PM. Our special guests will be Santa and Mrs. Claus, along with some of Santa's helpers. Also, get ready to light up your homes for Brooklyn's Fourth Annual House Decorating Contest. The festive holiday displays make our city look terrific each and every year.

My staff and I are pleased to inform you of our partnership with the Ohio State University Business Retention and Expansion Program. We have surveyed our local business community seeking their valuable input on how the City of Brooklyn can help existing business and potential new business to relocate, build and remain in our community. I believe we have built an excellent relationship with our city businesses and they have been very generous in their support of our community events. It is important that we remember that over 98% of all the municipal income tax revenue comes from our local businesses. That revenue pays for our city services!

Employees from the City of Brooklyn and American Greetings will be collecting canned food items to help provide a Thanksgiving meal to those area families that are in need this holiday season. Please feel free to drop off any items related to Thanksgiving at our city buildings.

From our entire city staff, we wish you and your family a safe and healthy holiday season and best wishes for a wonderful New Year.

2003 THIRD QUARTER FINANCIAL STATUS

The Finance Committee received an update on the status of the city's finances at its meeting on October 13th and the news was good. The quick version of that report is that revenues are nearly \$1 million over expectations while expenditures are about \$200,000 higher than originally projected. The city continues to be in a strong financial condition that has gotten stronger.

Revenues for the General Fund were originally projected at about \$12.7 million for the year. The administration was projecting a decline from the \$13.235 million in General Fund revenue generated in 2002. Collections in Municipal Income Tax declined in 2002 on a net basis. Economists projected that the economy would not recover until the third quarter of 2003. We, therefore, projected a decline for Brooklyn. But as reported at mid year, income tax collections began to recover for this city in the first quarter and were \$450,000 better than last year on a net basis by July 1. Collections have continued to improve and the city received a one time payment of six years of back taxes, \$706,000 as a result of an IRS audit. Municipal Income Tax collections are now projected at \$11.820 million net, an increase of slightly over \$1 million from last year. The result is that the General Fund revenues will increase to a projected \$13.6 million for this year.

Expenditures for the General Fund were originally projected at \$13.3 million. By mid year that figure had risen to \$13.4 million. That increase was due to additional road salt, maintenance on equipment and overtime on weekends and holidays to keep city streets clear during winter's numerous snow storms. Costs are now projected at \$13.5 million because of higher than projected costs for salaries and wages to settle the union contracts and a 20% increase in insurance costs.

The \$600,000 decline in end of year fund balance originally projected will not happen. The city will again have a balanced budget. Revenue will exceed expenditures by \$160,000. Best of all, income tax collections have apparently recovered from the net loss of last year and are now showing a net gain. The city will maintain the strong financial position established during the last three years.



FIRE SAFETY

.....FROM CHIEF PAUL DUCHOSLAV, DIVISION OF FIRE

A reminder from your Brooklyn Fire Department, the best way to avoid injury or death from a fire is to prevent that fire from ever occurring. However, even with diligent attention to fire safety, accidents do happen. In the event of a fire, survival depends upon three basic factors:

1. **Early detection of the fire:** Working smoke detectors should be on all levels of your home and the batteries should be changed at the end of Daylight Savings Time. Smoke detectors that are more than ten years old should be replaced.
2. **Know what action to take:** Develop a written evacuation plan that includes two escape routes from every room. Evacuation plans must be practiced if they are to be effective.
3. **Be able to evacuate:** Escape routes must be accessible and unobstructed. Special attention should be given to more vulnerable occupants such as children, elderly or the impaired. Crawl low to the floor if caught in smoke or use the secondary route.

Contact the Brooklyn Fire Department at **216-749-1212** to request a free "Home Safety Survey". If you need fresh smoke detector batteries or a new

BUILDING DEPARTMENT

Applications are available in the Building Department and Senior Center for the Home Energy Assistance Program. Eligible residents may obtain assistance with their home heating bills through the Ohio Department of Development.

The heating season is here and if your furnace has not been serviced recently, it is important for your safety to have your furnace and chimney inspected and cleaned if necessary. For names of registered heating contractors, you may contact the Building Department at 216-635-4203.

BROOKLYN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

We are currently finishing our "Memories of Early Schools in Brooklyn". We were fortunate to receive a grant for this project from Wal-Mart, and Mail-Well Envelope was kind enough to provide the envelopes.

These will be distributed free to the teachers and staff of the Brooklyn School System, City Administration, Brooklyn Historical Society Members and benefactors.

Historical Fact: When the original "Brooklyn Township" was founded in 1818, its boundaries were Lake Erie to the north, Brookpark Road to the south, Cuyahoga River to the east and West 117th to the west. Brooklyn now consists of 4 1/2 square miles, with most, not all, of the original township annexed into the City of Cleveland.

For information, call Barbara at 216-941-0160.



POLICE NEWS

... From the Desk of Chief Jack Murphy

Just a reminder that the Winter Parking Ban started on November 1 and continues through April 4th. This means you cannot park on the streets during these dates between the hours of 2:00 AM-7:00 AM **OR** when snow reaches two inches.

Remember the Brooklyn Police Department is always here to assist you. Call **9-1-1** for emergencies and **749-1234** for any other police related business.

STORM WATER POLLUTION

Storm Water Phase II is a program that is being initiated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The City of Brooklyn will be participating in this program. Polluting storm water runoff can be harmful to our environment. It is our goal to prevent storm water pollution. Storm water can pick up debris, chemicals, dirt and other pollutants that will flow into a storm sewer system, streams or directly into our lake. Here are some tips to help prevent storm water pollution which can be done around our homes.

1. Never pour unwanted chemicals on the ground. Soil cannot purify most chemicals and they may eventually contaminate runoff.
2. Use low-phosphate or phosphate free detergents.
3. Drop off oil, antifreeze, paint and unwanted pesticides at the City Garage for proper disposal.
4. Fix water leaks and install water saving faucets and toilets.
5. Pick up after your pets. Pet waste contains nutrients and pathogens that can contaminate surface water.
6. Regular tune-ups and inspections of our vehicles can help prevent automotive waste and by-products from contaminating runoff.
7. Clean up any spilled automobile fluids. When it rains the spilled fluids will runoff into our catch basins and eventually into our lake.
8. Litter, such as plastic bags, bottles, cigarette butts can be washed into water bodies and choke and disable aquatic life such as ducks, fish, turtles and birds.
9. Sweep up litter and debris from sidewalks, driveways and parking lots, especially around storm drains.
10. Compost or mulch yard waste. Don't leave it in the street or sweep it into storm drains.

SENIOR CENTER EVENTS



Reminder for snow removal recipients: Driveways will only be plowed after a reported **4 inch** snowfall in a **24 hour period** and then only after **ALL** city streets and sidewalks have been cleared!

In case of severe weather and you need medicine or basic emergency groceries (milk, bread, eggs, etc.) senior residents should call the center at 216-635-4222 and we will be happy to pick them up for you.

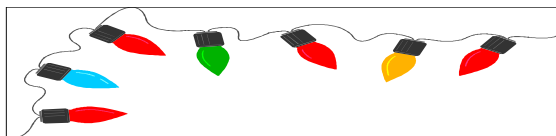
NEW EVENING PROGRAMS OPEN TO THE COMMUNITY CERAMIC CLASSES AT THE SENIOR CENTER 6:30 PM-9:00 PM

Cost for each class is \$2.00 plus the cost of your green wear (molds to be painted)

THANKSGIVING DONATIONS

Giant Eagle and Tops are donating turkeys and pastries for this year's Thanksgiving baskets to be donated to area families in need. If you would like to help by donating non-perishable food items, you may drop them off at the Police Department, Brooklyn City Hall, the Senior Center or Recreation Center by November 14th.

The City of Brooklyn would like to thank Giant Eagle, Tops, B.A. Sweetie, American Greetings, and the Brooklyn Fraternal Order of Police for their generous donations.



HOLIDAY DECORATING CONTEST

The holidays are upon us and it's time to bring out your decorations for Brooklyn's Fourth Annual House Decorating Contest! This year we will be having two contests. In finalizing Ohio's Bicentennial year, we will be judging homes decorated in patriotic themes and colors, as well as those decorated in traditional seasonal trimmings.

To enter call City Hall at 351-2133 and give your name, address, phone number and which contest you would like to enter. Judges will only view homes that are entered by calling City Hall.

All entrants must be submitted to City Hall by December 12th. Committees will be judging homes the week of December 15th. Winners will be notified and invited to attend the Brooklyn City Council meeting on December 22nd at 7:00 PM.

RECREATION CENTER ACTIVITIES

BLUE LINE BLADES: Every Friday from 1:15-2:00 PM for skaters ages 3-6. Hockey or bike helmet, hockey gloves or mittens and a hockey stick are required. Cost is fifty cents for residents per visit with valid I.D. Non-residents must pay \$1.00.

IN-HOUSE YOUTH HOCKEY WITH JOCK CALLANDER: An exciting new hockey program is being offered at the Recreation Center for ages 3-8, Sunday mornings from 10:45-11:45 AM., now through March 14th. A helmet with mask, shin guards, a stick and gloves are required. For those who do not own hockey skates, figure skates may be rented. Cost is \$125 to resident I.D. holders and \$150 for non-residents.

LEARN TO SWIM REGISTRATION: 2ND SESSION EVENING CLASSES... December 13 & 14...Resident registration from 11:00 AM-1:00 PM. Registration for non-residents is on December 14 from 11:00 AM-1:00 PM. Classes begin on January 5, 2004. The cost for residents is \$17.50 and for non-residents \$25.00.

SKATE WITH SANTA

Sunday, December 14 from 2:30-4:00 PM
Come celebrate the season of ice with your family, Santa and his many friends! Free admission for resident I.D. holders and their guests. Skate rental and non-resident admission fees will be in effect.

YOUTH SOCCER REGISTRATION: For children ages 3-14. Cost for residents is \$20 and non-residents is \$30. Travel fee for U-8's and above is \$5. Registration dates are 12:00-2:00 PM on the following Saturdays: January 3, January 10, January 17 and January 24. Parent volunteer coaches' applications will be available at registration. Coaches clinics will start in February.

BROOKLYN MEMORIAL PARK PAVILION RESERVATIONS: Permit requests will be taken beginning January 5, 2004 for resident groups and beginning on February 2 for non-resident groups. Reservations may be made by calling 351-2111, Monday through Friday, 8:30 AM-10:30 AM only.

FRIDAY NIGHT BASKETBALL: Resident students in grades 3-8 are invited to participate in this eight week program. Registration will be held at the Recreation Center on Saturday, December 20 and Saturday, January 10 from 12:00-2:00 PM. This free program is open to resident boys and girls.

HOLIDAY HOURS

CLOSED: Thanksgiving, Christmas Day and New Year's Day

OPEN: Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve
The Natatorium will be open from 6:30 AM-1:00 PM.
The Recreation Center will be open from 8:00 AM-1:00 PM.



City of Brooklyn
Mayor Kenneth E. Patton
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In This Issue...**Important news from the Mayor's Office and the Brooklyn School System!**

***4th ANNUAL BROOKLYN
OLD FASHIONED TREE LIGHTING
AND HOLIDAY GATHERING***

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5TH AT THE GRANDE PAVILION BEGINNING AT 7:00 PM

Holiday music will begin the festivities, followed by a holiday story read under the stars by Mayor Ken Patton. Join us for our annual Tree Lighting Ceremony, and of course Santa and Mrs. Claus will be there. After the Tree Lighting Ceremony, all are invited to the Community Center for coffee, hot chocolate and cookies as the evening concludes with additional music.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7TH AT THE BROOKLYN SENIOR-COMMUNITY CENTER

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| 4:00 PM-6:00 PM | Bring the children for a holiday picture with Santa, Mrs. Claus and the elves, provided free of charge. Holiday crafts for the children will be offered. |
| 4:30 PM-6:00 PM | Local choirs have been invited to entertain everyone. Refreshments and snacks will be provided. |
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